EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

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Situation Report

Severe Storms

May 27, 2004

Storms regenerated on the evening of May 26th with isolated severe storms that produced high winds, hail and possible tornadoes in the area of Truman Lake and the Lake of the Ozarks. The St. Louis area continued to experience heavy amounts of rain. The system will continue to be present in the state through the Memorial Day Weekend, before the system finally leaves the state.

County/City reports:

St. Clair: SEMA and County officials are in Roscoe assessing the damages. The Fire Station (including a fire truck) was destroyed, a police car was destroyed, and a local restaurant was destroyed. Initial reports indicate all of these were insured. Preliminary reports from the county EMD indicate that approximately 20 homes were damaged. Degree of damage is unknown at this time; however, everyone appears to be staying in his or her homes. There have been no reports of evacuations or need for shelters. One injury was reported by the County Sheriff. Last night approximately 400 people were without power in the city and county. Currently 200 are still without power. Local utility companies indicate power should be restored to those 200 within 24 hours.

St. Louis Metropolitan Area:

There were several severe storms that passed through Region C during the evening hours last night. Dopplar radar indications of rotation prompted Tornado warnings in Washington County, St Francois County, Ste. Genevieve County, Franklin County, St Charles County, St Louis County and Jefferson County. There were no confirmed sightings or damages associated with the tornado warnings. Hail and heavy rain, once again, dominated these storms as they passed through the area. Localized urban and small stream flooding was widespread. Minor wind damage to trees was again reported. The Days Inn in Eureka lost part of their roof. There were no injuries and the hotel remained open for business during the clean up. TV reporting showed one home destroyed in Creve Coeur (happened Tuesday afternoon) when a 100-year-old tree was toppled over onto the home. It is insured (the insurance company discussed the damage with a reporter). Another TV report estimated 40,000+ vehicles reporting damages throughout the metro area over the past three days. Local news stations are doing an excellent job of informing the public on repair safety and avoiding scams. An urban and small streams advisory remains in effect for St Louis City, St Louis County and St Charles County. Flood warnings remain in effect for all counties along the Mississippi River. Flood warnings remain in effect for the Meramac River in south St Louis County and North Jefferson County. Crests are expected sometime Tuesday evening into Wednesday morning of next week.

Federal /State Actions: SEMA conducted Damage Assessments in Gentry, Livingston, Linn and Macon Counties on May the 25th and 26th, 98 to 99 per cent of the damage is covered by insurance. An assessment team was sent to St. Clair County and the city of Roscoe to assess the damage from the storms on May 26th.

<u>Other State Agency and Volunteer Agency Actions:</u> The Red Cross has established a Reception and Care Center in the Albany Community Center and provided assistance with the preliminary damage assessment. The Department of Conservation is also assisting authorities in both Albany and Chillicothe in the cleanup effort. Additionally, in St. Clair County the Red Cross and Salvation Army are on site and are establishing feeding operations. The Red Cross is starting a damage assessment at this time.

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Forecast from NWS: The main threat will be damaging thunderstorm winds and nickel size hail. However, at this time, it looks like the main focus for thunderstorms this evening will remain across southern Missouri and western Kentucky. Outflow from the thunderstorms in Kentucky and Missouri may be enough of a catalyst to spawn a few of thunderstorms. A cold front currently extends from Eastern Indiana southwestward to north of the Tennessee / Kentucky border through the Missouri/Arkansas Border into the Panhandle of Texas. A cluster of thunderstorms has developed over southern Missouri and western Kentucky. These storms will continue to move and train along the front from west to east through the early evening hours.

Showers and thunderstorms will continue to develop along the east to west oriented front through the end of the week as a series of weather disturbances move through the fast west-southwest flow aloft. These clusters of thunderstorms will mainly impact areas north of a line from Wynne Arkansas to Brownsville Tennessee to Huntingdon through the remainder of the week.

The front boundary is expected to remain fairly stationary, with a slight northward movement Tonight into Thursday. The front will again sag southward as a cold front into Northeast Arkansas and Northwest Tennessee Friday in concert when a more vigorous and stronger disturbance tracks across Northeast Arkansas, the Missouri Bootheel, and West Tennessee. This will result in a threat for severe weather across the entire Mid South with better chances being over west Tennessee, Northeast Arkansas and the Missouri Bootheel.

Previous Storm Information (May 19th Storm)

Cass County: An SBA declaration for Cass County and contiguous counties was granted on May 26th.

<u>Point of Contact:</u> SEMA Duty Officer after hours number is 573-751-2748, during normal duty hours calls should be made to 573-526-9100.